General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2008

LCO No. **6023**

HB0579606023HRO

Offered by:
REP. PERILLO, 113th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. **5796** File No. 676 Cal. No. 402

"AN ACT CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FEDERAL SPECIFIED LOW-INCOME MEDICARE BENEFICIARY, THE QUALIFIED MEDICARE BENEFICIARY AND THE QUALIFYING INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS."

After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and internal references accordingly:

"Sec. 501. Subsection (a) of section 12-170v of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after said date*):

(a) Any municipality, upon approval of its legislative body may provide that an owner of real property or any tenant for life or for a term of years liable for property taxes under section 12-48 who meets the qualifications stated in this subsection shall be entitled to pay the tax levied on such property, calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section for the first year the claim for such tax relief is filed and approved in accordance with the provisions of section 12-170w, and such person shall be entitled to continue to pay the amount of such tax or such lesser amount as may be levied in any year, during each subsequent year that such person meets such qualifications, and the surviving spouse of such owner or tenant, qualified in accordance with the requirements pertaining to a surviving spouse in this subsection, or any owner or tenant possessing a joint interest in such property with such owner at the time of such owner's death and qualified at such time in accordance with the requirements in this subsection, shall be entitled to continue to pay the amount of such tax or such lesser amount as may be levied in any year, as it becomes due each year following the death of such owner for as long as such surviving spouse or joint owner or joint tenant is qualified in accordance with the requirements in this subsection. After the first year a claim for such tax relief is filed and approved, application for such tax relief shall be filed biennially on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor of such municipality. Any such owner or tenant who is qualified in accordance with this section and any such surviving spouse or joint owner or joint tenant surviving upon the death of such owner or tenant, shall be entitled to pay such tax in the amount as provided in this section for so long as such owner or tenant or such surviving spouse or joint owner or joint tenant continues to be so qualified. To qualify for the tax relief provided in this section a taxpayer shall meet all the following requirements: (1) On December thirty-first of the calendar year preceding the year in which a claim is filed, be (A) seventy years of age or over, (B) the spouse of a person, seventy years of age or over, provided such spouse is domiciled with such person, or (C) sixty-two years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a taxpayer who at the time of such taxpayer's death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief under this section, provided such surviving spouse was domiciled with such taxpayer at the time of the taxpayer's death, (2) occupy such real property as his or her home, (3) either spouse shall have resided within this state for at least one year before filing the claim under this section and section 12-170w, and (4) the taxable and nontaxable income of such taxpayer, the total of which shall hereinafter be called "qualifying income", in the tax year of such homeowner ending immediately preceding the date of application for benefits under the program in this section, was not in excess of limits set forth in section 12-170aa, as adjusted annually, evidence of which income shall be submitted to the assessor in the municipality in which application for benefits under this section is filed in such form and manner as the assessor may prescribe. The amount of any Medicaid payments made on behalf of such homeowner or the spouse of such homeowner, [shall not constitute income] and any unreimbursable medical or dental expenses incurred by such homeowner or the spouse of such homeowner shall be deducted in calculating income. The income of the spouse of such homeowner shall not be included in the qualifying income of such homeowner for purposes of determining eligibility for tax relief under this section, if such spouse is a resident of a health care or nursing home facility in this state, and such facility receives payment related to such spouse under the Title XIX Medicaid program. In addition to the eligibility requirements prescribed in this subsection, any municipality that provides tax relief in accordance with the provisions of this section may impose asset limits as a condition of eligibility for such tax relief.

Sec. 502. Subsection (b) of section 12-170aa of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2008, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after said date*):

(b) (1) The program established by this section shall provide for a reduction in property tax, except in the case of benefits payable as a grant under certain circumstances in accordance with provisions in subsection (j) of this section, applicable to the assessed value of certain real property, determined in accordance with subsection (c) of this section, for any owner of real property, or any tenant for life or tenant for a term of years liable for property tax under section 12-48, or any resident of a multiple-dwelling complex under certain contractual conditions as provided in said subsection (j) of this section, who (A) at the close of the preceding calendar year has attained age sixty-five or over, or whose spouse domiciled with such homeowner, has attained age sixty-five or over at the close of the preceding calendar year, or is fifty years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a homeowner who at the time of his death had qualified and was entitled to tax relief under this section, provided such spouse was domiciled with such homeowner at the time of his death, or (B) at the close of the preceding calendar year has not attained age sixty-five and is eligible in accordance with applicable federal regulations to receive permanent total disability benefits under Social Security, or has not been engaged in employment covered by Social Security and accordingly has not qualified for benefits thereunder but who has become qualified for permanent total disability benefits under any federal, state or local government retirement or disability plan, including the Railroad Retirement Act and any government-related teacher's retirement plan, determined by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to contain requirements in respect to qualification for such permanent total disability benefits which are comparable to such requirements under Social Security; and in addition to qualification under (A) or (B) above, whose taxable and nontaxable income, the total of which shall hereinafter be called "qualifying income", in the tax year of such homeowner ending immediately preceding the date of application for benefits under the program in this section, was not in excess of sixteen thousand two hundred dollars, if unmarried, or twenty thousand dollars, jointly with spouse if married, subject to adjustments in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection, evidence of which income shall be required in the form of a signed affidavit to be submitted to the assessor in the municipality in which application for benefits under this section is filed. The amount of any Medicaid payments made on behalf of such homeowner or the spouse of such homeowner, [shall not constitute income] and the amount of any unreimbursable medical or dental expenses incurred by such homeowner or the spouse of such homeowner shall be deducted in calculating income. The amount of tax reduction provided under this section, determined in accordance with and subject to the variable factors in the schedule of amounts of tax reduction in subsection (c) of this section, shall be allowed only with respect to a residential dwelling owned by such qualified homeowner and used as such homeowner's primary place of residence. If title to real property or a tenancy interest liable for real property taxes is recorded in the name of such qualified homeowner or his spouse making a claim and qualifying under this section and any other person or persons, the claimant hereunder shall be entitled to pay his fractional share of the tax on such property calculated in accordance with the provisions of this section, and such other person or persons shall pay his or their fractional share of the tax without regard for the provisions of this section, unless also qualified hereunder. For the purposes of this section, a "mobile manufactured home", as defined in section 12-63a, or a dwelling on leased land, including but not limited to a modular home, shall be deemed to be real property and the word "taxes" shall not include special assessments, interest and lien fees.

(2) The amounts of qualifying income as provided in this section shall be adjusted annually in a uniform manner to reflect the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security income, with each such adjustment of qualifying income determined to the nearest one hundred dollars. Each such adjustment of qualifying income shall be prepared by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management in relation to the annual inflation adjustment in Social Security, if any, becoming effective at any time during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the first day of October each year and the amount of such adjustment shall be distributed to the assessors in each municipality not later than the thirty-first day of December next following.

(3) For purposes of determining qualifying income under subdivision (1) of this subsection with respect to a married homeowner who submits an application for tax reduction in accordance with this section, the Social Security income of the spouse of such homeowner shall not be included in the qualifying income of such homeowner, for purposes of determining eligibility for benefits under this section, if such spouse is a resident of a health care or nursing home facility in

this state receiving payment related to such spouse under the Title XIX Medicaid program. An applicant who is legally separated pursuant to the provisions of section 46b-40, as of the thirty-first day of December preceding the date on which such person files an application for a grant in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, may apply as an unmarried person and shall be regarded as such for purposes of determining qualifying income under said subsection."